



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2004

No. 93

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend John M. O'Neill, Pastor, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Vienna, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

God our Father, praise and honor and glory and power forever. Praised be Your Holy Spirit.

Lord God, we come before You this day. Open our hearts and minds to Your words and Divine Will today and every day. Help us to learn Your desires for our lives. Encourage us, through the assistance of those here present, our representatives, to always follow Your lead and to avoid straying from Your compassionate love.

Guide us in our deliberations during this session of Congress and counsel us always to be Your faithful children.

We especially pray, Lord, that You guide the leaders of our Nation and extend Your loving protection to our men and women serving in our Armed Forces around the world, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq. Grant us the peace which is the fruit of justice and charity, and may Your peace reign in our land and throughout the world. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST CHAPLAIN, FATHER JOHN M. O'NEILL

(Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Father John O'Neill for joining us as guest chaplain and offering this morning's prayer.

Father O'Neill is the outgoing pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic church in Vienna, Virginia, where he has served for the past 12 years. Father O'Neill received his undergraduate degree and master's degree in psychology from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He completed his theological studies at de Sales School of Theology in Washington, D.C., and was ordained in June of 1973. Father O'Neill served as a guidance director/teacher at Bishop Ireton High School for 10 years and then served as the academic dean and teacher at Paul VI High School in Fairfax, Virginia, for 2 years.

Under his guidance as associate pastor and pastor, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church enriched the spiritual lives of its parishioners and the community around it.

Father O'Neill's contributions both in northern Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth have made him an invaluable spiritual leader for my constituents. As he moves on to his sabbatical in Rome, he will be dearly missed by all of us.

We thank him for offering today's prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

DO NOT IGNORE WESTERN SAHARA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the King of Morocco is in Washington to tout the newly signed U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement. I am a free trader, but I have serious reservations about this plan.

Morocco today illegally occupies a country in West Africa known as Western Sahara. The King's government has promised people of Western Sahara, the Sahrawi, a vote to determine their own future. It has not happened, and it keeps delaying.

A decade after that promise, powerful friends help the Moroccan Government postpone this vote and consolidate control over the occupied territory. The Sahrawis are a peaceful, pro-Western and prodemocracy people. Despite living under an illegitimate colonial power, they have established a deep-rooted culture of democracy capable of supporting a viable state. They elect their own leaders, many of them women, provide education and equal rights to all of their citizens, men and women.

The only stability a sovereign democratic Western Sahara disrupts is a status quo defined by tyranny. We should keep that in mind when we vote on the trade agreement on the House floor.

TOBACCO FARMERS NEED THE PRESIDENT'S HELP

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to call on the President to get off the sidelines and support the tobacco buyout once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, across the country families are feeling the economic squeeze of higher prices for gasoline, food, and college, record job losses, and an uncertain future. In my State of North Carolina and in other rural areas, tobacco

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H5333